

HOUSE RESOLUTION 232

By Hardaway

A RESOLUTION to honor and applaud Head Coach Devin Rutherford and the White Station High School football team on capturing the TSSAA Class 6A state championship.

WHEREAS, the General Assembly is pleased to specially honor and commend those successful high school teams that, through their magnificent exploits, bring honor to Tennessee and serve as exceptional ambassadors of this State; and

WHEREAS, led by Head Coach Devin Rutherford, the White Station High School football team achieved an extraordinary level of success during the 2009 season, establishing a record of thirteen wins and two losses and winning the first-ever TSSAA Class 6A state championship; and

WHEREAS, after resounding victories over their opponents during the state playoffs, the Spartans rolled into the first-ever Class 6A state championship game in the BlueCross Bowl, held December 5, 2009, at Tennessee Technological University's Tucker Stadium in Cookeville; and

WHEREAS, White Station completed their amazing season by soundly defeating traditional football powerhouse Maryville High School 37-27 and winning the school's first football state championship trophy; and

WHEREAS, the championship game was highlighted by the outstanding performance of White Station senior Julian Burton, who rushed for 273 yards on eighteen carries, scored four times, intercepted a pass, and forced a fumble, earning him both Offensive and Defensive Most Valuable Player honors; and

WHEREAS, the leadership and passion for the game of Head Coach Devin Rutherford and his assistant coaches and staff, are without peer; Coach Rutherford's precepts of playing

tenacious defense, controlling the ball on offense, and limiting mistakes, were perfectly on display during the Spartans' run for the championship; in recognition of his exceptional coaching abilities, Coach Rutherford won 2009 Coach of the Year honors; and

WHEREAS, several key players on the White Station football team won special commendations and earned Best of the Preps honors and All-State honors, including Anthony Hayes, Julian Burton, Deandra Simmons, Fred Harvey, Darus Buckley, Antonio Cheatham, and Yancey Spangler; quarterback Anthony "Red" Hayes also received the Tennessee Titans Mr. Football award in recognition of his leadership abilities and athletic prowess; and

WHEREAS, the young men that make-up the entire roster of the 2009 White Station High School football team have displayed ability, teamwork, and perseverance; with the help of their coaches, parents, teachers, school administrators and supporters, the 2009 Spartans represented their school and the State of Tennessee in fine fashion, displaying peerless character both on and off the football field; and

WHEREAS, during this incredible championship season, the members of the 2009 White Station High School football team have etched their names onto the hearts of Tennesseans and into the annals of Tennessee sports history; their dedication, determination, work ethic, and talent not only made possible a successful and memorable football season, but also surely point toward their successes in future endeavors; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED SIXTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, that we honor and congratulate Head Coach Devin Rutherford and the White Station High School football team for their heralded success on the football gridiron and for capturing the 2009 TSSAA Class 6A state championship.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.